







assortment of new millinery goods.

## AGRICULTURE ABROAD.

SOME HINDRANCES TO FARMING IN THE OLD WORLD

Calculated to Make American Crop Raisers Congratulate Themselves—Interesting Reports from Our Watchful Foreign Consuls.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Consul General Merritt at London writes the state department at Washington that although 1884 recalled the last great agricultural year in England, 1874, by reason of auspicious weather and large yields, prices dropped off fully twenty-five per cent, and farmers found themselves coming out of an exceptionally good year with a loss. "The result," says Mr. Merritt, "is that the crisis is more severe now than ever, and all remedies that have been advanced, save that of a large reduction of rents, may be dismissed as futile. Farming land is being sold at a loss, and all farmers are throwing up their leases as fast as their terms expire."

Consul Shaw at Manchester has an explanation for the depressed condition of agriculture in England. Form a careful study of the methods pursued there he writes: "I am fully satisfied that farm expenses are more than 100 per cent. dearer here than they are in America, notwithstanding the much higher wages paid with us." He gives a couple of illustrations which came under his observation. The hay in a field of ten acres was being gathered, and this was the outfit: "Two horses attached to a cart, a teamster, a boy to lead the horses, one man to pitch up the hay, two men to load with their hands, a boy to rake after, and there were three sets of work people after this fashion in this one field." In America, with one man to load and drive his span of horses, one man to pitch on the hay, a horse-fork to unload, Mr. Shaw says, "more hay would be secured in one day than the three sets of workers were able to manage." In a wheat field he saw a reaper at work with "six men, two women and three boys," doing the work which a self-binder and two men would accomplish in the states. "An English settler in the United States," concludes Mr. Shaw, "told me not long ago that he had learned to do twice as much in a day as he used to accomplish in England, and he really believed he could go back to England and make money farming as the result of his improved information."

Consul Roosevelt at Bordeaux reports that the returns on the wine crop of France for 1884 show a total yield of 918,810,000 gallons, a decrease of 55,000,000 gallons, as compared with the previous year. In twelve months past the ravages of phylloxera have caused the robbing up of 15,000 acres of vineyards. The wine of 1884 is noted for a fine flavor, good body and dark color.

"Much complaint," writes Consul General Brewer in Germany, "is made by those engaged in agricultural pursuits at the low prices, and they are demanding further protection by a higher rate of duty upon imported agricultural productions, claiming that it is impossible for them to compete with the farmers of America, Russia, etc." There is much depression of the best sugar in Europe, because of the system of taxing the produce of the best and paying a bounty to the exporter of the sugar.

Although they had unusually fine crops the Syrian farmers are in a bad way, Consul Robinson reports. A new system of taxation called Fekhsia, has been adopted, and it is even less satisfactory than the old tithing collecting plan. The Turks used to take ten per cent of the amount produced by the Syrian farmer. Instead of that, a fixed tax for five years has been levied which does not vary for the crop. The tax is based on the expectation of four good years and one bad year. "The farmer will not be able to rent his lands, as the tenant, who has to pay the fixed tax, can not afford to pay heavy interest on money borrowed, and run the risk of the four-to-five chances of good crops. Many of the agricultural class would leave the country if permitted to do so, as their condition grows worse annually."

Consul Farman at Bombay, tells of the failure to introduce improved agricultural machinery of American manufacture into India. The native Zaidis do not take kindly to it. Several consignments of plows, planters and reapers were received, but had to be re-shipped to Australia, so great was the prejudice against their use.

Consul General Spencer, at Melbourne, notes the great change which has taken place in Australia: "For many years the colonies were partially dependent upon external sources of supply for their breadstuffs and large shipments of wheat were received year after year from Chili and California. A vast extent of well-grassed pastoral country invited the early settlers to bestow their attention exclusively upon the breeding and grazing of sheep and cattle, and upon the production of wool. The climate was found to be peculiarly propitious to this industry. Neither artificial food nor shelter was required at any period of the year. Whole flocks of country, covering hundreds of square miles, were leased to pastoral tenants at an almost nominal rent. These leases, in quantities, as they were generally called, were aversive to agricultural settlement. They used their political influence to prevent the land from being thrown open to tillage. As the urban population increased in numbers, and therefore in power, it succeeded in defeating the pastoral elements, and liberal land laws were passed, giving every reasonable facility for the acquisition of freehold farms. The result has been a remarkable expansion of agricultural industry, so that some of the colonies which formerly drew large quantities of wheat from the Pacific coast are now exporting to Europe."

Washington Briefs.  
The R. E. Lee veterans of Virginia called upon the president and were received by him in the east parlor, after which the members left for their respective homes.

The court of inquiry appointed by Rear Admiral Joutet to examine into the actions of Commander Kane during the Panama troubles has fully vindicated that officer.

The president has declined an invitation to visit Atlanta next month.

Another Englishman in New York Bay.  
New York, May 9.—The arrival of the corvette Canada, in the lower bay has created considerable discussion. The storm and foggy weather prevented the Canada from leaving her present anchorage, but as soon as the weather cleared she will move up and locate near the Garret. Consul General Baker said that the arrival of the Canada had no particular significance. The Honduras ship Strick is still at anchor in the North river, and may stay ten days longer; possibly a month.

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